

Homework #6, PHY 674, 16 October 1995

Consider the following hypothetical molecule: It consists of three hydrogen atoms located at the corners of an equilateral triangle. Find all irreducible characters of the corresponding (3-dimensional) symmetry group and their dimensions. Briefly describe how you found the characters. Which degeneracies are expected for the electronic states of this system? Assuming that $\psi_{1s}(i)$ is a 1s-wave function centered at the i -th corner, project out the components of $\psi_{1s}(1)$ belonging to the irreducible representations. Which of these wave functions do you believe to have the lowest energy, and why? (4 points).

The benzene molecule C_6H_6 is a hexagonal ring of 6 carbon atoms, each of which has a hydrogen atom attached. All atoms are located in the same plane. Find the (3-d) symmetry group for this molecule and determine the character table. Describe how you can find the irreducible characters (4 points).

Derive the Clebsch-Gordan formula for the group $SU(2)$ (4 points):

$$V_k \otimes V_l = \bigoplus_{j=0}^q V_{k+l-2j} \quad \text{with} \quad q = \min\{k, l\}. \quad (27.1)$$

Derive the Clebsch-Gordan formula for the group $SO(3)$ (4 points):

$$W_k \otimes W_l = W_{|k-l|} \oplus W_{|k-l|+1} \dots \oplus W_{k+l}. \quad (28.2)$$

Show that the group $O(3)$ of orthogonal symmetry operations in three dimensions is a direct product $O(3) = SO(3) \times \{E, \pi\}$, where E is the identity and π the inversion. Use this knowledge to find the classes and irreducible characters of $O(3)$ (4 points).

Decompose the representation denoted by Γ in the table given below into the irreducible representations of the group labelled T_d .

T_d	E	$8C_3$	$3C_2$	$6S_4$	$6\sigma_d$
Γ_1	1	1	1	1	1
Γ_2	1	1	1	-1	-1
Γ_3	2	-1	2	0	0
Γ_4	3	0	-1	1	-1
Γ_5	3	0	-1	-1	1
Γ	9	0	1	-1	3

Please note that this notation for the irreducible representations of T_d is somewhat unusual, at least in semiconductor physics (4 points).